

**CLAIMS**

1. A papermaking fabric or filter fabric comprising or including a layer or component of synthetic yarns or fibres, which have been subjected to plasma treatment.
- 5 2. A papermaking or filter fabric according to claim 1, wherein said fabric includes a layer comprised of synthetic yarns or fibres, a surface of which layer has been subjected to plasma treatment.
3. A papermaking or filter fabric according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the yarns or fibres subjected to plasma treatment are provided with activated sites to improve subsequent coating or dyeing.
- 10 4. A papermaking or filter fabric according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the yarns or fibres have been subjected to a plasma comprising or containing oxygen, air or ammonia.
- 15 5. A papermaking or filter fabric according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the fibres have been subjected to a plasma comprising or containing silane, siloxane, or a perfluorocarbon.
6. A papermaking or filter fabric according to claim 5, wherein said silane is  $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_4$ .
7. A papermaking or filter fabric according to claim 5, wherein said siloxane is  $\text{Si}(\text{OCH}_3)_4$ .
- 20 8. A papermaking or filter fabric according to claim 5, wherein said

perfluorocarbon is 1-6C perfluoroalkane, or tetrafluoroethylene or a combination thereof.

a 9. A papermaking or filter fabric according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the fibres have been subjected to a plasma comprising or containing a hydrocarbon.

a 10. A papermaking or filter fabric according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the yarns or fibres have been subjected to a plasma comprising or containing one or more halogenated hydrocarbons or unsaturated amines.

10 11. A papermaking or filter fabric according to any preceding claim, wherein the plasma is diluted by helium.

12. A method of making or preparing papermaking or filter fabric including the step of subjecting at least one surface of a layer or component of the fabric which comprises or includes synthetic yarns or fibres to plasma treatment.

15 13. A method according to claim 12, wherein said plasma treatment provides activated sites to improve subsequent coating or dyeing.

14. A method according to claim 12, wherein the plasma contains oxygen, air or ammonia.

20 15. A method according to claim 12, wherein the plasma contains a silane, a siloxane, or a perfluorocarbon.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the silane is  $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_4$ .

17. A method according to claim 15, wherein siloxane is  $\text{Si}(\text{OCH}_3)_4$ .
18. A method according to claim 15, wherein the perfluorocarbon is 1-6C perfluoroalkane, tetrachloroethylene, or a combination thereof.
19. A method according to claim 12, wherein the plasma contains a hydrocarbon.
20. A method according to claim 12, wherein the plasma contains one or more halogenated hydrocarbons or unsaturated amines.
21. A method according to ~~any one of claims 12 to 20~~, wherein the plasma is diluted by helium.
22. Apparatus for use in the method of claim 12, including a plasma chamber to which material comprising synthetic yarns or fibres forming part of or for use in making a fabric can be introduced and removed after treatment.
23. Apparatus according to claim 22, comprising means for continuously introducing material into the plasma chamber, means for moving the material through the chamber during treatment, and means for causing the material to leave the chamber after treatment.
24. A fabric ~~or method~~ according to ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the synthetic fibres are in the form of yarns to be made up into a woven or nonwoven layer.
25. A fabric ~~or method~~ according to ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the

Year	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
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